

Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 22 April, 1861.

My Dear Garrison:

57
I thank you for your
letter received on Saturday, which
assured me that my own in-
stinct and judgment had not
separated me, ~~from~~ in this trying
and momentous hour, from
the friends of the cause at head
quarters. I am with you ex-
actly in what you say as to
the proper course and bearing
of Abolitionists in view of the
war. My object in writing
now is to ~~express~~ tell you that,

Ms. A. 9. 2. 4. April 22, 1861

upon full reflection, and after
consulting some of our best
friends here, I have come to
the conclusion that it will
be best for us to forego our
Anniversary altogether. The
outlook here is fearful, &
seems to be increasing rather
than diminishing. It is no
time to gain the public ear,
and there is danger that, through
the popular misapprehension
of our position, we may bring
trouble upon our own heads
and harm to the good cause.
Why may not the officers of the
Society, in these extraordinary cir-

circumstances, "hold over" ~~the~~ another
year without calling the Society to-
gether! The Ex. Com. ought, in
that case, to issue ^{an} ~~and~~ ad-
dress to the public, explaining
the reasons for assuming this
responsibility. I am sure
that an address, such as
you would write at two
hours' notice, would give
entire satisfaction to the
members of the Society.

Pray think of it, & if you
& the Committee
~~consider~~ agree with me, tel-
x egraph me to that effect to-
morrow, & I will announce
that no anniversary will

be held for reasons to ap-
pear in an address from the
Committee next week. I
ought to say that Mr. Gilbert,
Dr. Harts & others would be
glad, in the circumstances, to
be released from their obli-
gation to open Dr. Cheever's
church.

Yours, to the end,

Oliver Johnson

C. J. N. Y. April 22, 1861